



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

1787. Jan. 5. (25 present.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—Benjamin Franklin.

Vice-Presidents—Ewing, White and Rittenhouse.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Patterson, Magaw and Foulke.

Curators—Duffield, Binney and Bradford.

Treasurer—Hopkinson.

Councillors (for three years)—McKean, Bryan, Caldwell, Hoge.

1787. Jan. 19. (25 present.)

Wm. Bingham, Benj. Chew, Jr., Francis Johnston, Receiver of the Land Office, Jos. James, Robt. Milligan, and Wm. Barton, all of Philadelphia; Dr. Thos. Ruston, of Chester county; Major Isaac Craig, of Pittsburgh; Simeon De Wit [*sic*], of New York; Jas. Bowdoin, Governor of Massachusetts; Lewis Wm. Otto, Chargé des Affaires of his Most Christian Majesty; John Jay, Sec. For. Aff., New York; M. Cadet de Vaux, of Paris; M. Cadet, of Paris; John Lowell, Judge of Appeals, Boston; Sir Ed. Newenham, Bt., The Duke of Richmond, Dr. John Coackly [*sic*] Letsom, of London; Robt. Barclay, of London; Dr. Wm. Thornton, of London, and Dr. Geo. Spence, of Jamaica, were elected members.

Dr. And. Duncan, of Edinburgh, sent an elegant copy of "Medical Commentaries," in ten volumes.

1787. Feb. 2. (16 present.)

Scantling and paving accounts, £15 · 1 · 2, presented; a tie vote, and the subject laid over.

The Committee on Subscriptions were invested with power to carry on the building, being accountable for the expenses; the accounts to be first passed on by the Society.

Lord Stanhope acknowledged the certificate of membership sent to his late father, Lord Mahon.

Wm. Bradford, Dr. Foulke and Mr. Patterson were ap-

pointed a Committee on a Petition for a change in some clauses of the Act of Incorporation.

Secretaries directed to conduct the ceremonies of the Annual Oration in the Hall of the University, Jan. 28th.

Ben. Vaughan, of London, son of Samuel Vaughan, of Philadelphia, sends £10 for the building, and offers his services in the matter of Vol. II of the Trans.

1787. *Feb.* 16. (22 present.)

Hopkinson read a letter from Rittenhouse to him (although Rittenhouse was present), “containing some curious observations on the generation of clouds.”

A paper from John Churchman, of Nottingham, gave “a new theory of the variation of the magnetic needle founded on the hypothesis of two bodies (besides the moon) revolving round the earth: one in the plane of a parallel circle near the north pole, and the other in the plain of a like circle near the south pole.” Ewing, Rittenhouse, Hoge and Patterson were appointed a committee to receive from Churchman additional illustrations on a globe.

The account of £15 · 1 · 2 (see Feb. 2) was ordered, by a more than three-fourths vote, paid out of the funds of the Society, and not out of the building funds.

Time of oration ordered to be 7 o'clock, P. M.

1787. *Feb.* 21.

Met and proceeded to the Hall of the University, where Rev^d Dr. Sam. Smith, V. P. of the College of New Jersey delivered the annual oration, “On the causes of the diversity of figure & complexion in the human species.”

Met again, to return thanks and ask for a copy for publication; which was granted.

1787. *March* 2. (20 present.)

The Committee on Churchman's method for discovering the longitude by means of the Magnetic Variation reported:

That, in their opinion, “his attempt to account for the variation upon the groundless hypothesis of two moons, revolving round the poles of the

earth, at a small distance from them," was "exceedingly whimsical;" as "contradictory of the fundamental principles of attraction," &c.

They then described his postulates, and say:

"We are of opinion that all these suppositions are without foundation, and not only unsupported by observations, but also inconsistent with the observations made by the most skillful astronomers in every part of the globe, when furnished with the best instruments; & that the calculation which he proposes fails to give the longitude required."

"Upon the whole we do not find a single idea in his communication, where he ventures to differ from the astronomers who have written upon the subject, but what appears to us either contradictory to the known principles of philosophy and impossible in the nature of things, or else inconsistent with the facts that have been observed and established by others."

S. Vaughan, Sr., Pettitt [*sic*], and Hutchinson were appointed to invest Mr. Magellan's 200 guineas.

"Expenses attending the annual oration," £6 .. 11 .. 6, ordered paid.—Secretaries ordered to "agree with Mr. Aitken or some other printer, on the best terms they can, for the printing of 1800 copies of Dr. Smith's oration;" 1000 in pamphlets, and 800 in reserved sheets for the next volume of Transactions (Vol. III).

Special meeting ordered for March 9.

1787. *March 9.* (6 present.)

"Part of Dr. Smith's oration was read ——" [*This is all the minute of this meeting.*]

1787. *March 16.* (13 present.)

Dr. Foulk requested to deliver the next annual oration.

Committee on Petition to the Assembly reported adversely to "the expediency of troubling the House at present."

Thanks to Mr. Burgsdorf ordered, for his communication on the subject of Vegetation, and that it be offered to the *Columbian Magazine*.

Secretaries ordered to write to Mr. Hazard in New York to solicit building subscriptions.

1787. *April 6.* (9 present.)

James Bringhurst added to the Building Committee.

Mr. Daneufville's letter read, describing a manufactory of white glass near Albany, and specimens exhibited.

1787. *April 20.* (16 present.)

Mr. John Churchman sent in a revised and corrected copy of his paper, substituting two revolving magnetic poles for his two moons.

The Investing Committee reported that they had purchased with Magellan's 200 guineas a ground rent of £33 .. 12 per annum, from John Dickinson and Mary, his wife, and Henry Shriver.

It was resolved to purchase a gold plate of the value of 10 guineas to be conferred as a premium ; the resolution to be engrossed on the back of the deed of conveyance, signed and sealed.

Account of Clem. Biddle for drawing the deed for ground rent, £4, was ordered paid.

S. Vaughan, Dr. Morris and Dr. Hutchinson were appointed to issue proposals for leasing the cellar in Fifth street for a term of years.

Proposal of Mr. Dilley, London, to reprint Transactions Vol. I, if the Society "take 200 copies at the paper & print price." Agreed to, on condition that Mr. Dillon agreed to to take 150 copies of Vol. II in part payment.

1787. *May 4* [*"forgotten to be transcribed in its proper place"**]. (10 present.)

Letter from Secretaries of "the Manchester Society," with two volumes of Transactions.

Two letters from John Whitehurst, London, with a copy of his "Enquiry into the original state and formation of the earth, 2^d edition."

Hutton's tracts presented.

* These minutes are found *following* those of the next meeting.

Letter from Mr. Herschel, with a catalogue of 1000 nebulae; directed to Franklin, and presented by him.

Agreement with Dilley rescinded, as it interfered with the Society's engagements with Aitkin [*sic*].

Letter from Hopkinson to Franklin, "with drawing and description of a Chronometer on a new & very simple construction."

Drawing and description of a nautilus or newly invented ferry-boat, from Eneas Lamont of Baltimore, candidate for the Magellan premium.

Committee on Churchman's first paper authorized to give him a copy of their report, when he returns said paper.

Committee on the sale of lot in Arch street ordered to invite proposals May 19th, at noon.

1787. *May* 18. (19 present.)

Committee on the Society's lott [*sic*] in Arch street restricted to a sale price of £600.

Subscriptions ordered to be opened for £400, towards carrying on the building in Fifth street, on the following conditions:

1. Subscriptions for one or more shares of £5 each.
2. A lease of the cellars to be made to the subscribers, when £400 were subscribed for 20 years (to commence when the cellars were fit for use), "subject to restrictions with advertized conditions."
3. Possession of cellars to continue after 20 years until the refunding of the £400.

Agreed that in case the subscription list be not filled up in the course of one week the committee should be at liberty "to make the offer to any person they choose."

Dr. Smith allowed 30 copies of his oration.

Dr. Franklin presented, from President Adams, a copy of his "Defence of the Constitution of the Government of the United States." Thanks returned.

1787. *June 15.* (8 present.)

Janitor's bill (Rediger) £3 · 17 · 6.

Dunlap & Claypole's bill for printing 300 admission cards, £3.

Symon & Glass' bill, 15 reams of paper, £39 · 7 · 6.

Levis' bill for 12 reams of paper £16.

Rev. Temple Henry Croker's letter to Dr. Franklin, "relating a number of experiments on the dipping needle." Read.

Ordered, £10 · 10 refunded to Robt. Aitken who had paid that sum as subscription to Building Fund for Mr. Hutchins—seeing that Mr. Hutchins' subscription was to be in shape of copies of his map of Pennsylvania, at a guinea apiece—when Mr. Hutchins shall have delivered six maps to the Society.

[END OF MS. VOL. 1774 TO 1787.]

1787. *July 20.* (22 present; among them Mr. Madeson [*sic*], of Virginia, and Dr. Williamson, of N. Carolina.)

New Members Elected.—Sir Joseph Banks, John Hunter, and four others in England; with six Philadelphians.

Committee to inquire about the Library Company's proposals relative to the Society's lot and intended hall in the State House yard: J. B. Smith, Dr. Ruston, Messrs. Hoge and Fox, Dr. Foulke and Dr. Magaw.

1787. *August 17.* (12 present.)

Letter from Henry Laurens, of South Carolina, thanking the Society for his election, and giving £50 for the Building (draught on Mannings & Vaughan, London).

John Vaughan announces a donation for the Building of 10 guineas from his brother, Wm. Vaughan, of London.

Report of Committee on "the Lot & cellars near the State House" reported a conference with the Directors of the Library Company, to whom they had proposed a joint fin-

ishing and occupying of the building on terms of equality and mutual convenience; or, a sale to the company at the price of past expenditures for the cellars and value of the privilege of occupying the ground. The Directors required time for deliberation.

It was resolved to inform the Company that the Society could not tell the exact cost of the cellars, nor was prepared for any definite agreement; and that the Building Committee should make up its accounts.

A memorial from John Churchman was presented, and a reply ordered that the Committee were already instructed.

1787. *Sep. 7.* (14 present.)

Hutchinson's motion for a Committee with power to treat, sell and transfer to the Library Company, was, on motion of Dr. Magaw, postponed to be a special order for September 14, and the Building Committee was requested again to hand in their accounts.

[There are no minutes of any meeting on September 14, but on the following Tuesday evening there was a meeting at *Franklin's house*, where no doubt other meetings were held.]

1787. *Sep. 18.* (19 present, Franklin presiding.)

Letter from Patrick Wilson, Prof. Astronomy, Coll. Glasgow, to Franklin, "containing a general account of the construction of Mr. Hirschel's [*sic*] Forty Feet Telescope, of his having lately mounted it, and discovered two Satellites revolving round the Planet Georgium Sidus, or Hirschell. [*sic*]. There are some other curious matters mentioned in the communication."

Letter of L. S. of New Jersey to Franklin describing a chimney plastered with mortar mixed with salt, that never took fire, although never swept. "The author of the letter requests that this matter may be communicated to the Public."

Mr. Vaughan produced his account of subscriptions. [No details—nor any sum mentioned.]

Hutchinson's motion of September 7th was argued and negatived.

Dr. Ruston added to the Building Committee, vice Dr. Parke, resigned.

Building Committee ordered "to proceed with all convenient despatch to have the walls carried up & covered in."

The Society adjourned "to hold their next stated meeting at the President's House agreeably to his Invitation." [Franklin was in feeble health.]

1787. *Sep.* 21. (9 present ; Franklin presiding.)

Dissertation by Dr. Wistar (a new member) "Experiments upon evaporation in cold air."

D'Aubenton's letter of thanks for election, dated Paris, February 15th, 1787, was received at this meeting, showing the slow rate of transatlantic communication.

Mons. Le Comte de Buffon, also sends his letter of thanks for election and certificate of membership.

Dissertation (for Magellanic Premium) "On a Spring Block, to assist a vessel in sailing," motto annexed, *Vires acquirit cedendo*.

Another (for Magellanic Premium) "On the Discovery of the means of finding Longitude."

1787. *Oct.* 5. (15 present ; Franklin presiding.)

Three French medical papers by Dr. Gashlier, referred to Drs. Jones, Foulke and Griffith.

A large thigh bone found near Woodbury creek in Gloucester [*sic*] county, N. J. [perhaps a *Hadrosaurus*], was described in a paper by Mr. Matlack and Dr. Wistar ; who, with Dr. Rodgers, were requested to search for the missing part of the skeleton.

"A letter from Mr. Patterson to Dr. Rush, accounting, on the principles of Hydrostaticks, for that phenomenon first

observed by Dr. Franklin, when a vessel containing oil & water is put in motion,—was presented & read.”

“A treatise on some part of the theory of the Planets,” was received from Dr. Minto, of Long Island.

Lord Napier’s portrait, a print, was presented by the Earl of Buchan.

An essay on “Animal Heat” for the Magellanic premium; with a letter to Franklin.

Books were sent by their authors: Dr. Jean Ingenhauz and M. le Roy.

Geo. Hinkead’s account for recording a deed £1, ordered paid. Also Dunlap & Claypool, “account for advertizing in their paper, for a considerable time, the disposal of the cellars,” £3 .. 1.

1787. Oct. 19. (14 present; Franklin presiding.)

Indian spear stones “lately found deposited in the mud near a river,” with a letter “containing various speculations & conjectures concerning” them, were exhibited, as a gift to the Society, from Mr. Beale Boardley of Maryland.

“On the method of cultivating cotton in Virginia;” letter from Richard P. Barton.

A letter from M. le Comte Morozza Cassitane, Major du regiment aux gardes, Membre de la Société Italiana—read.

“On the tides in the Bay of Fundy;” letter from Mr. Annam.

Among the books—Abhandlungen der Böhmischen Gesellschaft, and Memoires del’Academie des Sciences de Turin.

1787. Nov. 2. (16 present.)

“On the variation of the magnetic needle;” for the Magellanic premium.

Franklin’s proposal to lend the Society money to complete the building, is here minuted but crossed out with black lines and erased with the note (“The following introduced too soon”).

Committee to inquire into the state of the funds, “in order that proper measures may be taken to discharge the debts of the Society:”— Dr. Andrews and Mr. John Vaughan.

Franklin’s second subscription of £100, and offer of a “loan of what money may be requisite to raise & cover the building upon legal interest”—reported, the thanks of the Society voted, and the offer accepted, by the appointment of Dr. White and Samuel Vaughan, as a Committee to confer with Franklin on the “proper mode of giving security for his advances.”

“After the interview with the President” (who was apparently in another room of his house), the Committee reported, & it was resolved to give Franklin a Bond not exceeding £500, payable in one year, with legal interest; and a Mortgage “on the lot of land bought by the Society of Fra. Hopkinson, Esq;” also “of the rent of the cellars & such part of the building as may be let by the Society: until the said advance & interest be fully paid;” and, meanwhile, a signed & sealed copy of the resolutions delivered to Franklin.

“The President now present.”

A Committee to draw up a petition to the General Assembly of the State for a sufficient grant of unappropriated land “for the purpose of enabling the Society to prosecute their views in promoting useful knowledge”:—Dr. White, Dr. Andrews and Mr. Pettitt.

1787. *Nov.* 16. (6 present; Franklin presiding.)

Secretaries ordered to get Clem. Biddle to prepare the bond and mortgage.

Draft of petition read by John Vaughan.

1787. *Dec.* 7. (7 present; Franklin presiding.)

Books presented by authors: Belin de Villeneuve [*sic*], Moreau de St. Mery, M. Grevel, Drawings of the lighthouse at Plymouth, by Mr. Edmonstone, &c.

Auditing and Settling Committee on Treasurer’s and Building accounts: Rittenhouse and Patterson.

“Public advertisement of the time appointed for the adjudication of M. Magellan’s annual premium,” ordered.

MEETING OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

1787. *Dec. 18.* (11 present; Franklin presiding.)

“The several pieces referred to the consideration of the Committee appointed at a late meeting, were again read.”

The essay on Animal Heat referred back for report at next meeting.

Reports of Committee on mechanical prize essays read and adopted.

1787. *Dec. 21.* (14 present; Franklin presiding.)

Essay on “Animal Heat.” The Board of Officers and Council reported that it was “very ingenious” but not within the scope of the Magellan premium.

“Invention of the Spring Block.”

The Board reported that “it appeared ingenious, and plausible in theory,” but that the premium should be withheld until the author “shall substantiate its usefulness . . . by one or more adequate & satisfactory experiments; which they hope to receive from him at some subsequent meeting.” It was then voted that in case of such proof of utility being given the invention should take the premium. “Nevertheless, the Society agreeably to the express letter of the conditions” of the award, felt obliged to “have a vote taken on the general question, as contained in the 6th Article of said conditions.” The vote on the Spring Block resulted in a negative.

The Secretaries were then instructed, to publish the “Society’s proceedings and determination,” in such cases.

A vote of thanks was passed to Sam. Vaughan “for his disinterested & successful attention to their [the Society’s] interests.” Franklin then presented the thanks of the Society to Mr. Vaughan.

Auditing Committee reported a balance of £14 .. 18 .. 11 in the hands of the Treasurer.

Aitkin’s bill for binding two vols. of Transactions £1 .. 2 .. 6, ordered paid.

A list of outstanding dues presented. Treasurer requested to collect and “pay the same to Mr. Rob. Aitkin in part of his demand.”

1788. Jan. 4. (8 present; Franklin presiding.)

Drawing of a Marine Chevaux-de-frize by Robert Erskine, F. R. S., with description, presented by Franklin. Drawing of “a Boat to sail on Ice used in some of the northern countries of Europe.”

Print of a Nouveau Quartier de Reduction and pamphlet on the use of the Quadrant, by M. le B del’or, Prof. Math., Paris.

ANNUAL ELECTION HELD.

President—Franklin.

Vice Presidents—Ewing, White, Rittenhouse.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Patterson, Magaw, Foulke.

Council—Ingersol, Blackwell, Kuhn, Pettitt.

Treasurer—Hopkinson.

Curators—Duffield, Bradford, Peale (C. W.).

1788. Jan. 18. (13 present.)

Committee to let “such parts of the Phil. Hall as the Society can spare:”—Clifford, Hutchinson, J. Vaughan.

Committee for carrying on the building: Hutchinson and J. Vaughan added to it. “The said Committee to consider of the objections mentioned in a letter . . . from the Street Commissioners, respecting the stone steps in the front of the hall, and to take such order as advisable.”

1788. Feby 1. (5 present.)

“After some conversation, adjourned.”

1788. Feby 15. (4 present.)

Geo. Wall, Jr., exhibited a “Trigonometer,” for the making and vending of which he had obtained a patent